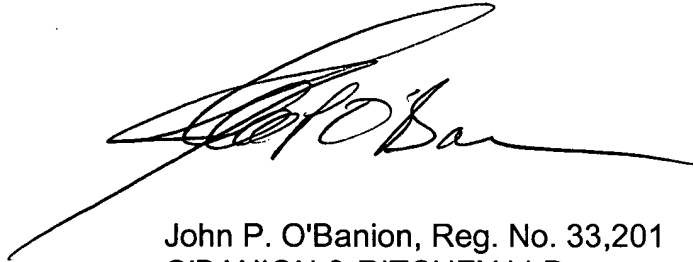


REMARKS

This First Preliminary Amendment is respectfully submitted to correct an error in the claims, wherein Claim 16 appears twice. Accordingly, the first occurrence of Claim 16 has been canceled, and the second occurrence of Claim 16 has been amended to include the limitations of the canceled claim. Entry is respectfully requested.

Dated: 3/5/02.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. P. O'Banion", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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VERSION OF AMENDMENT WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 16, second occurrence, has been amended as follows:

16. (amended) A method as recited in claim 13:

wherein a node in an ACTIVE state cannot send any update messages or add neighbors to any successor set;

wherein after receiving replies from all its neighbors, the node is allowed to modify the successor sets and report any changes that may have occurred since the time it has transitioned to ACTIVE state; and

wherein if none of the distances increased beyond the reported distance, the node transitions to PASSIVE state.